

Construction begins on Metro Entrance Facility project

Coordination with disability representatives key to successful design process

On September 25, 2000, the Pentagon Renovation Program awarded Phase 1 of a \$36.5 million contract to Hensel Phelps Construction Co. of Chantilly, Va., for the design and construction of a new Pentagon Metro Entrance Facility (MEF). This project will implement Congressionally approved security enhancements to the existing facility as a part of the Pentagon Renovation Program. Key components of the project include relocating the existing bus facility farther from the building and constructing a new entrance facility to the Pentagon. The Pentagon Tour Office and the Pentagon Badge Office will be relocated to the new entrance facility upon its completion. Access into the Pentagon and mass transit operations will be maintained at all times during construction.



Members of the Metro Entrance Facility project team use a tape measure to clarify the dimensions of project design features at a recent meeting with disability representatives in Alexandria, Va.

The MEF contract is the direct result of coordinated efforts between the Pentagon, Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority, elected officials, state and local transportation agencies, the National Capital Planning Commission, and representatives from the community, including persons with disabilities. "The response has been excellent," said Will Colston, MEF Project Manager. The affected parties understand the need for this security initiative and have worked closely with us to design a new facility that meets the needs of the area's mass transit users and the security requirements of the Department of Defense.

The Pentagon Metro Station, the Washington area's largest bus-to-rail transfer point, has not undergone a major upgrade since it was completed in the mid 1970s. The new facility will include covered bus bays, and windscreens will enhance passenger comfort at bus waiting areas. Escalators and walkways, and two elevators at all vertical transition points will improve accessibility. "Our goal is to create a modern user-friendly facility that is accessible to all patrons," said Colston.



Lee Evey (left), Pentagon Renovation Program Manager, describes renovation activities to Congressman James Moran (Va.) during a recent site visit. A Congressional mandate requires the Pentagon Renovation Team to upgrade the security of the Pentagon's Metro Entrance. To meet this requirement, the Metro Bus Loop must be moved a minimum of 280-feet from the face of the building.



Will Colston, project manager for the Metro Entrance Facility, describes design features at a recent meeting with disability representatives.

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A preliminary conceptual rendering of the new Metro Entrance Facility. The project is driven by security initiatives and will include a new bus facility, covered walkways, windscreens, aesthetic improvements, full accessibility, and a new entrance facility into the Pentagon.

Other MEF upgrades include state-of-the-art security equipment and telecommunications, and improved lighting and aesthetics. Two additional bus bays will accommodate projected increases in ridership and a new Metro sales office will be built. The Metrorail station will not be affected by the project.

Design of the facility continues to be refined and initial site work began in February 2001 to relocate the existing taxi stand along Rotary Road. Completion of the entire project is expected in late 2002. The first changes to pedestrian traffic at the bus facility are not expected until November 2001.

The Pentagon Renovation Program will disseminate information regularly to keep facility users informed of construction progress and to communicate project impacts. For additional information on the Metro Entrance Facility project, please visit <http://metro.pentagon.mil>.



The existing bus facility at the Pentagon Metro allows vehicles to come within several feet of the building.



Recent threat assessments require the relocation of the existing Metro bus facility farther away from the Pentagon. Construction work began February 7, 2001.

Visit the Metro Entrance Facility Web Site
<http://metro.pentagon.mil>

